FAFSA on the Web - U.S. Department of Education

AFSA on the.

PIN Site Help Contact Us FAFSA FAQs

Site Map

FAFSA on the Web

Your Free Application for Federal Student Aid
U.S. Department of Education. Student Financial Assistance

What To Expect? Before Beginning a FAFSA Completing a FAFSA FAFSA FOllow-Up

FAFSA on the Web First Time FAFSA FAFSA Renewals FAFSA Corrections Signature Page Status of FAFSA FAFSA Results Award Notification Receiving Money Paying Back Loan

Eligible for Aid PIN Info.

Privacy/Security Screen Reader

### FAQ's: FAFSA on the Web

What are the Deadlines for Submissions?

Submit no earlier than January 1, 2001 and no later than July 1, 2002. You can go online to check the status of your FAFSA during processing or call the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 800/4-FEDAID (800-433-3243)/TTY: 800/730-8913 or 319/337-5665 Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 12 a.m. EST. To apply for student aid from other sources, see <u>Deadlines</u>. Check with your school's financial aid office for further information on school deadlines.

#### What are the New FAFSA Features?

(NOTE: INFORMATION NEEDED)

#### FAFSA Eligibility?

The Department of Education uses the information you provide on your FAFSA to determine your <u>eligibility</u> for aid from the federal Student Financial Assistance (SFA) programs. Many states and schools also use the FAFSA to award aid from their programs. See <u>Federal Student Aid Programs</u>, and <u>State/School Programs</u>, for details.

#### What Documents do I need?

Before you begin filling out your FAFSA, you can save time by gathering documents and other information you need to complete your FAFSA.

#### What are the Federal School Codes?

The Department of Education assigns a Federal School Code number (previously called a Title IV School Code) to each school that is approved to receive and award federal financial aid for which you want to apply. To find out if your school qualifies, you can do a search using <u>Federal School Codes</u>.

#### How do I answer the question asking about drug-related offenses?

A new law suspends federal student aid eligibility for students convicted under federal or state law of possession or sale of drugs (not including alcohol or tobacco). There is a <a href="Drug">Drug</a> Conviction Worksheet, you can use to determine your eligibility.

# I'm not sure if I want to take out a student loan. What should I enter for the question asking if I am interested in student loans?

Answer "Yes" if you will consider taking out a loan. Most students do take out student loans. You can change your mind later. Some schools use this information to put together a financial aid package for you. You are not obligated to accept any aid listed in your financial aid package. If you will consider work -study, answer "Yes" to the question asking if you are interested in work -study as well. You can change your mind later. Answering "No" when you fill out the FAFSA could mean that your school awards its aid funds to other students; you may not have a later opportunity to be awarded aid.

#### I'm now a U.S. citizen but have an Alien Registration Number (ARN). Which box do I check?

Check the U.S. citizen box - do not check both, as this would cause a problem with the application. If you have attained citizenship, do not give an ARN. ARNs are associated with being an eligible non-citizen for purposes of applying for federal student aid.

# I'm going to get married this summer. How do I answer the question that asks if I am married?

Answer "Yes" if you are married on the day you sign the FAFSA. Otherwise, answer "No." The FAFSA is a snapshot of your status the day it is signed; it does not forecast changes such as marriage.

#### Why must I report the highest school level my parents completed?

Some states and institutions make monies available to support students who are first generation college students. It also serves statistical purposes. If you don't know the answer, select "Other/unknown."

Contact Us Site Map PIN Site Help FAFSA FAQs

FAFSA on the Web logo home

## FAFSA on the Web

Your Free Application for Federal Student Aid U.S. Department of Education, Student Financial Assistance

What To Expect? Before Beginning a FAFSA Completing a FAFSA **FAFSA Follow-Up** 

- FAFSA on the Web
- First Time FAFSA
- **FAFSA Renewals**
- **FAFSA Corrections**
- Signature Page
- Status of FAFSA
- **FAFSA Results**
- **Award Notification**
- Receiving Money
- Paying Back Loan
- Federal Student Aid
- Eligible for Aid
- PIN Info.
- Privacy/Security Screen Reader

# FAO's: First Time FAFSA

### What is FAFSA on the Web?

FAFSA on the Web is the online version of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on paper. Completing the FAFSA is the first step in the financial aid process. FAFSA on the Web is faster to submit and help you reach your goal of lowering the cost of higher education. Use this application to apply for federal student grants, work -study money and loans. You can also use FAFSA on the Web to apply for most state and some private aid.

# How do I apply for aid?

Completing the FAFSA is the first step in the financial aid process. It will take the Department of Education 3-4 weeks to process your FAFSA and send you a Student Aid Report (SAR) by mail. Your SAR will summarize the data you report on your application. Check this information carefully to make sure it is accurate. Keep a copy of your SAR. If your FAFSA information is complete, an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) will be printed in the upper right hand corner of the first page of your SAR. Your EFC will be based on the financial information you provide on the FAFSA, and your school will use it to award your financial aid.

# How much time does it take to complete a FAFSA?

The Department of Education estimates that for first-time users, FAFSA on the Web will take between 45 minutes and an hour and 15 minutes to complete. It takes less time to complete Renewals and Corrections. You can save your FAFSA for later any time you want before you submit it. See Time to Complete for time-saving tips.

Notes:			
{notes}			

FAFSA on the Web - U.S. Department of Education

FAFSA on the Web logo home

# **FAFSA** on the Web

Your Free Application for Federal Student Aid U.S. Department of Education, Student Financial Assistance

# What To Expect? Before Beginning a FAFSA Completing a FAFSA Follow-Up

- FAFSA on the WebFirst Time FAFSA
- FAFSA Renewals
- FAFSA Corrections
- · Signature Page
- Status of FAFSA
- · FAFSA Results
- Award Notification
- · Receiving Money
- Paying Back Loan
- · Federal Student Aid
- · Eligible for Aid
- · <u>PIN Info.</u>
- Privacy/SecurityScreen Reader

# FAQ's: FAFSA Renewals

Can I submit a Renewal FAFSA using FAFSA on the Web?

Yes. You may use this online application to complete and submit the 2000-2001 Renewal Free Application for Federal Student Aid on the Web (Renewal FAFSA).

Do I need a PIN to submit your Renewal FAFSA?

Yes. You will need a PIN to complete and submit your application. If you don't have a PIN, go to the Pin Site to register for your PIN.

# Who should submit a Renewal FAFSA?

The Renewal FAFSA is designed for students who have applied for aid the previous year. If you file a Renewal FAFSA, many answers are based on your prior year's application, which cuts down on the number of questions you have to complete. See <a href="Fill out a Renewal FAFSA">FILL OUT A RENEWAL FAFSA</a> for more information.

Page 2 of 2

Notes:			
{notes}			

FAFSA on the Web logo home

## **FAFSA** on the Web

Your Free Application for Federal Student Aid U.S. Department of Education, Student Financial Assistance

#### 

- FAFSA on the Web First Time FAFSA
- FAFSA Renewals
- FAFSA Corrections
- Signature PageStatus of FAFSA
- FAFSA Results
- Award Notification
- · Receiving Money
- Paying Back Loan
- · Federal Student Aid
- Eligible for AidPIN Info.
- · Privacy/Security
- Screen Reader

# FAQ's: FAFSA Corrections

### How can I make corrections to the FAFSA I submitted?

Use FAFSA Corrections on the Web to <u>make corrections</u> to your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). You may complete and submit this online form electronically.

### When can I use FAFSA Corrections on the Web?

If you find a mistake after you have submitted your FAFSA, you will have to wait until it is processed and you have received a Student Aid Report (SAR) by mail to submit corrections.

# Why do I need the Student Aid Report (SAR)?

Each time a FAFSA, Renewal or FAFSA Correction is processed, a transaction number is created. You use it to identify the FAFSA you want to correct. Each time a new transaction is created, you receive a new SAR and transaction number by mail. All the schools you list on the SAR will also receive updated information electronically.

### Where is the transaction number located?

You can find the transaction number in the lower right hand corner of your SAR, right after your Social Security Number and the first two letters of your last name.

# Do I need a PIN to submit my FAFSA Corrections?

Yes. If you do not have a PIN, go to the PIN site to register.

# Notes:

• Might need to delete/change PIN info. to match release 6 functionality.

FAFSA on the Web logo home

### **FAFSA** on the Web

Your Free Application for Federal Student Aid U.S. Department of Education, Student Financial Assistance

What To Expect? Before Beginning a FAFSA Completing a FAFSA FAFSA Follow-Up

- FAFSA on the Web
- · First Time FAFSA
- FAFSA Renewals
- FAFSA Corrections
- · Signature Page
- Status of FAFSA
- FAFSA Results
- Award Notification
- · Receiving Money
- · Paying Back Loan
- Federal Student Aid
- Eligible for AidPIN Info.
- Privacy/SecurityScreen Reader

# FAQ's: Signatures Required

## Why do I have to sign my FAFSA?

The Department of Education is required to collect signatures from you and your parents (if applicable) when you submit a FAFSA.

## How do I sign my FAFSA?

There are three ways to sign: Electronically with a PIN; by printing and mailing a signature page after you submit an application; by signing a copy of your Student Aid Report and returning it in the mail. Providing electronic signatures is faster than signing on paper and using the mail.

# Which FAFSAs can be signed electronically?

You can electronically sign and submit FAFSA Express and FAFSA on the Web applications, including FAFSA on the Web, Renewal FAFSA on the Web and FAFSA Corrections on the Web.

# How do I sign electronically?

Students and parents (if applicable) must have a PIN. If you do not have a PIN or forgot your PIN, go to the <u>PIN Site</u>. You will have to provide some basic identifying information to register for your PIN.

(NOTE: INFORMATION NEEDED)

# Do my parents have to sign my FAFSA?

If you are a dependent student, your parent(s) may also sign your FAFSA electronically or on paper using their own PIN. See more about <u>Signatures Required</u>.

Notes:			
{notes}			

**PIN Site** Help Contact Us FAFSA FAQs Site Map **FAFSA** on the Web FAFSA on the Web logo Your Free Application for Federal Student Aid home U.S. Department of Education, Student Financial Assistance What To Expect? Before Beginning a FAFSA Completing a FAFSA **FAFSA Follow-Up** FAFSA on the Web FAO's: Status of FAFSA First Time FAFSA FAFSA Renewals **FAFSA Corrections** What happens after I submit it? Signature Page Status of FAFSA Your FAFSA is stored on the Department of Education Web server. Then it is retrieved, **FAFSA Results** processed and stored by the Central Processing System. You can Check Status of your Award Notification application online. Receiving Money Paying Back Loan Can I check the status over the phone? Federal Student Aid Yes. Call the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 800-4-FEDAID (800/433-Eligible for Aid 3243)/TTY: 800/703-8913 or 319/337-5665. PIN Info. How soon can I check the status? Privacy/Security Screen Reader You can go online as soon as 24 hours after you submit your FAFSA. Privacy & Security

Notes:			
{notes}			

FAFSA on the Web logo home

FAFSA on the Web

Your Free Application for Federal Student Aid U.S. Department of Education, Student Financial Assistance

What To Expect? Before Beginning a FAFSA Completing a FAFSA FAFSA FOllow-Up

- FAFSA on the Web First Time FAFSA
- FAFSA Renewals
- FAFSA Corrections
- Signature Page
- Status of FAFSA
- FAFSA Results
- **Award Notification**
- Receiving Money
- · Paying Back Loan
- Federal Student Aid
  Eligible for Aid
  PIN Info.

Privacy/Security
Screen Reader

# FAQ's: FAFSA Results

### What happens after I submit on the Web?

The Department of Education processes your FAFSA and sends you a Student Aid Report (SAR) by mail. Copies of your SAR are sent electronically to the schools you listed on your FAFSA.

### How long does it take?

It takes about 3-4 weeks to process your FAFSA. You can <u>Check Status</u> of your FAFSA on the Web online as soon as 24 hours after you submit it.

### What information is in the SAR?

The Student Aid Report (SAR) summarizes the information you report on your FAFSA. If your FAFSA information is complete, you'll find an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) printed in the upper right hand corner of your SAR. The schools you listed on your FAFSA will use the information to determine if you are eligible for federal financial aid.

### How can I submit copies of my SAR to other schools?

There is a Data Release Number (DRN) on your Student Aid Report (SAR) that you can use. See What is a DRN?

Privacy & Security

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{notes}

FAFSA on the Web logo home

## **FAFSA** on the Web

Your Free Application for Federal Student Aid U.S. Department of Education, Student Financial Assistance

What To Expect? Before Beginning a FAFSA Completing a FAFSA FAFSA Follow-Up

- FAFSA on the Web
- · First Time FAFSA
- FAFSA Renewals
- FAFSA Corrections
- · Signature Page
- Status of FAFSA
- FAFSA Results
- Award Notification
- · Receiving Money
- Paying Back Loan
- Federal Student Aid
- Eligible for AidPIN Info.
- Privacy/SecurityScreen Reader

# FAQ's: Award Notification

### What federal financial aid is available?

Federal Student Financial Assistance (SFA) programs include grants, loans and work-study programs. Unlike grants, loans do not have to be paid back. Loans allow you to borrow money for your education that you have to repay. Work-study lets you earn money for your education.

### What is a Pell Grant?

Federal Pell Grants are awarded only to undergraduate students who have not earned a bachelor's or professional degree. For the 1999-2000 school year, federal Pell Grant awards ranged from \$400 to \$3,125.

#### What federal loans are available?

Federal Stafford Loans are student loans that must be repaid and are available to both undergraduate and graduate students. You may qualify, based on need, for a subsidized Stafford Loan. There are also Federal PLUS Loans made to parents. See <a href="Federal Student Aid Programs">Federal Student Aid Programs</a>.

# What is federal work-study?

The Federal Work Study (FWS) Program provides part-time jobs for undergraduate and graduate students with financial need. It lets them earn money to help pay for their education expenses.

FAFSA on the $Web$ - $U$	.S. Department of Education
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Page 2 of 2

Notes:		
{notes}		

	PIN Site Help Contact Us FAFSA FAQs Site Map
FAFSA on the Web logo home	FAFSA on the Web  Your Free Application for Federal Student Aid U.S. Department of Education, Student Financial Assistance
What To Expect?	Before Beginning a FAFSA Completing a FAFSA FOLIOW-Up
<ul> <li>FAFSA on the Web</li> <li>First Time FAFSA</li> <li>FAFSA Renewals</li> </ul>	FAQ's: Receiving Money
<ul> <li>FAFSA Corrections</li> <li>Signature Page</li> </ul>	<question 1?=""></question>
<ul><li>Status of FAFSA</li><li>FAFSA Results</li></ul>	<answer></answer>
<ul><li>Award Notification</li><li>Receiving Money</li><li>Paying Back Loan</li></ul>	<question 2?=""></question>
· Federal Student Aid	<answer></answer>
<ul><li>Eligible for Aid</li><li>PIN Info.</li></ul>	<question n?=""></question>
<ul><li>Privacy/Security</li><li>Screen Reader</li></ul>	<answer></answer>
Screen Reader	
	Privacy & Security

Notes:			
{notes}			

FAFSA on the Web logo home	PIN Site Help Contact Us FAFSA FAQs Site Map  FAFSA on the Web  Your Free Application for Federal Student Aid U.S. Department of Education, Student Financial Assistance
What To Expect?	Before Beginning a FAFSA Completing a FAFSA FAFSA Follow-Up
• FAFSA on the Web • First Time FAFSA	FAQ's: Paying Back Loan
<ul><li>FAFSA Renewals</li><li>FAFSA Corrections</li><li>Signature Page</li></ul>	<question 1?=""></question>
<ul><li>Status of FAFSA</li><li>FAFSA Results</li><li>Award Notification</li></ul>	<answer> <question 2?=""></question></answer>
Receiving Money     Paying Back Loan	<answer></answer>
<ul><li>Federal Student Aid</li><li>Eligible for Aid</li><li>PIN Info.</li></ul>	<question n?=""></question>
<ul><li>Privacy/Security</li><li>Screen Reader</li></ul>	<answer></answer>
	Privacy & Security

lotes:
notes}

FAFSA on the Web logo Your Free Application, Student Financial Assistance								
What To Expect?	Before Beginning a FAFSA Completing a FAFSA FAFSA Follow-Up							
• FAFSA on the Web • First Time FAFSA • FAFSA Renewals	FAQ's: Federal Loan Programs							
<ul> <li>FAFSA Corrections</li> <li>Signature Page</li> </ul>	<question 1?=""></question>							
<ul><li>Status of FAFSA</li><li>FAFSA Results</li></ul>	<answer></answer>							
<ul> <li>Award Notification</li> <li>Receiving Money</li> <li>Paying Back Loan</li> </ul>	<question 2?=""></question>							
Federal Student Aid     Eligible for Aid	<answer> <question n?=""></question></answer>							
Privacy/Security	<answer></answer>							
· <u>Screen Reader</u>								
Privacy & Security								

Notes:			
{notes}			

FAFSA on the Web logo home

### **FAFSA** on the Web

Your Free Application for Federal Student Aid U.S. Department of Education, Student Financial Assistance

#### What To Expect? Before Beginning a FAFSA Completing a FAFSA FAFSA FOllow-Up

- FAFSA on the Web
- First Time FAFSA
- FAFSA Renewals
- FAFSA Corrections
- Signature Page
- Status of FAFSA
- · FAFSA Results
- Award Notification
- Receiving Money
- · Paying Back Loan
- · Federal Student Aid
- · Eligible for Aid
- · PIN Info.
- Privacy/Security
- Screen Reader

# FAQ's: Qualify for Aid

### How can I find out if I'm eligible for financial aid?

Submit your FAFSA on the Web. The Department of Education uses the information provided on your FAFSA to determine your <u>eligibility</u> for aid from the federal Student Financial Assistance (SFA) program.

### Where is my eligibility reported?

After your FAFSA is processed, you'll receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) by mail. If your FAFSA information is complete, you'll find the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) printed in the upper right hand corner of your SAR. Financial aid administrators at the schools you listed on your FAFSA use the EFC to award aid from their programs. Many other states and schools also use the EFC.

#### How do schools use the EFC?

The school to which you are applying uses your SAR (Student Aid Report) to prepare a financial aid package to help meet your financial need. Financial need is the difference between your school's cost of attendance (including living expenses), as calculated by your school and your EFC (Estimated Family Contribution).

#### What else determines the amount of aid I may receive?

The amount of your financial aid award also depends in part on whether you're a full -time or part-time student; you attend school for a full academic year or less; you believe you have special circumstances such as unusual medical or dental expenses

#### Where can I find more information?

The financial aid office at the school you plan to attend is the best place to begin your search for free information. You can also find free information about federal, state, institution and private student aid in your local library reference section (listed under "student aid" or "financial aid").

FAFSA on the Web - U.S.	Department of Education
-------------------------	-------------------------

Page	2	of	1

Notes:			
{notes}			

FAFSA on the Web logo home

#### **FAFSA** on the Web

Your Free Application for Federal Student Aid U.S. Department of Education, Student Financial Assistance

What To Expect? Before Beginning a FAFSA Completing a FAFSA FAFSA Follow-Up

- FAFSA on the Web First Time FAFSA
- FAFSA Renewals
- FAFSA Corrections
- Signature Page
- Status of FAFSA
- FAFSA Results
- Award Notification Receiving Money Paying Back Loan
- Federal Student Aid
  Eligible for Aid
  PIN Info.
- Privacy/SecurityScreen Reader

# FAQ's: PIN Info.

#### What is a PIN?

The Department of Education PIN serves as your identifier to let you access your personal information. It's like the PIN that you get from your bank that gives you to access your account. Because your PIN serves as your electronic signature, you should not give it to anyone.

#### How do get my PIN?

To request a PIN, go to the <u>Pin Site</u>. For your security, the process requires you to provide your Social Security Number, the first two characters of your last name, and your date of birth.

#### What if I forget my PIN?

If you have lost or forgotten your PIN you will need to request the PIN be sent to you again. Go to the Pin Site and select "Send me another copy of my PIN" from the menu bar to request a duplicate of your PIN.

#### How do I report a change of address?

If you already have a U.S. Department of Education PIN, you can use the PIN Application Form to update your PIN mailing address. The PIN mailing address is the address where we mail your PIN. Enter your personal information, print the signature page, submit your PIN application information and you receive confirmation of receipt.

#### Why do I need a FAFSA password?

While you are filling out your FAFSA, you can save it for later any time you want. We will automatically save your data to our secure database. To do so we need you to submit a password. You must remember your password to retrieve your saved application, complete and submit it. This is to protect you and your information. After you have submitted your FAFSA, you don't need your password anymore. Your PIN will be your identifier.

If you forget your password, you cannot retrieve the FAFSA you saved. Neither Customer Service nor the U.S. Department of Education has a record of your password due to security reasons. This is to protect you and your information.

If you had a saved FAFSA on the Web, Renewal FAFSA on the Web or Corrections on the Web and have forgotten your password, you will need to start over.

# Notes:

• INFORMATION FOR PIN REQUEST CHANGE OF ADDRESS FROM PIN SITE/NEED TO VERIFY LINK ADDRESS)

**PIN Site** Help Contact Us FAFSA FAQs Site Map **FAFSA** on the Web FAFSA on the Web logo Your Free Application for Federal Student Aid home U.S. Department of Education, Student Financial Assistance **FAFSA** Follow-Up What To Expect? Before Beginning a FAFSA Completing a FAFSA FAFSA on the Web FAQ's: Privacy/Security First Time FAFSA FAFSA Renewals FAFSA Corrections What are the security features in FAFSA on the Web? Signature Page Status of FAFSA After you complete each section of the FAFSA and submit it to us, your FAFSA data is FAFSA Results protected during transit through the Internet by a process called encryption. Encryption uses Award Notification a mathematical formula to scramble your data into a format that is unreadable by anyone Receiving Money who might intercept your data. If your browser is configured correctly, encryption is done Paying Back Loan automatically when you connect to the FAFSA on the Web server by software included with your Netscape Navigator or Microsoft Internet Explorer browser. Federal Student Aid Eligible for Aid If you are residing in the United States or Canada, you do have some choice as to what level PIN Info. of encryption you use. Encryption strength is measured by the length of its "key", which is expressed in bits. The larger the key, the greater the strength of the encryption. For Privacy/Security example, we say throughout the introduction screens of the FAFSA that "international" Screen Reader versions of Navigator and Internet Explorer use 40-bit keys to encrypt data, while "domestic" versions of the same browsers use 56-bit or 128-bit keys. Consequently, the domestic versions of Navigator and Internet Explorer will offer your data stronger protection. In fact, data encrypted with a 128-bit key is approximately 309,485,009,821,345,068,724,781,056 times stronger than data encrypted with a 40-bit key. That's why we recommend you use the domestic version of your preferred browser. To learn more about Privacy & Security please read more >> Privacy & Security

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{notes}

	DIVIOUS AND PARTY OF THE PARTY								
	PIN Site Help Contact Us FAFSA FAQs Site Map								
FAFSA on the Web									
Your Free Application for Federal Student Aid  home U.S. Department of Education, Student Financial Assistance									
	U.S. Department of Education, Student Financial Assistance								
What To Expect? Before Beginning a FAFSA Completing a FAFSA FAFSA Follow-Up									
• FAFSA on the Web • First Time FAFSA	FAQ's: Screen Reader								
· FAFSA Renewals									
· FAFSA Corrections	<question 1?=""></question>								
· Signature Page									
<ul><li>Status of FAFSA</li><li>FAFSA Results</li></ul>	<answer></answer>								
· Award Notification	<question 2?=""></question>								
Receiving Money	Cadestion 2:>								
Paying Back Loan	<answer></answer>								
· Federal Student Aid	<question n?=""></question>								
<ul><li>Eligible for Aid</li><li>PIN Info.</li></ul>									
<u> </u>	<answer></answer>								
· Privacy/Security									
· <u>Screen Reader</u>									
Privacy & Security									

No	otes:					
{no	otes}					